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**Animal stock routes, check points and holding grounds —
Requirements**

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Introduction

This Draft African standard has been developed to provide guidelines on stock routes, holding grounds and check points that serve as direction to commercial transporters, producers and hobbyists in assessing their facilities, equipment and practices with regard to livestock transportation. The holding grounds may serve as feeding and resting place for the animals when in transit.

Stock Routes (SRs) facilitate the movement of animals within and between districts, and for international destinations.

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Animal stock routes, check points and holding grounds — Requirements

1 Scope

This Committee Draft African standard specifies requirements for animal stock routes, animal check points and holding grounds for control of animal movement for the purposes of trade, breeding, or other purposes other than for grazing within a given locality to protect the business, animal health, biosecurity and welfare, food safety and the environment.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply:

3.1

stock route

gazetted livestock route for movement between production sites, marketing or other user sites or areas and terminal market destinations

3.2

check point

authorised stop point along a stock route where animals in transit are checked by authorised personnel from a competent authority

3.3

holding ground

gazetted ground or area where animals are kept for a specified period of time for the purposes of isolation, observation, screening, feeding, resting, disease testing, vaccination and treatment

3.4

livestock

designated animal species; farm animals that are likely to be kept for commercial purposes and are taken on to the road for the purposes of moving from one part of the farm to the other or to another destination

3.5

livestock unit

designate animal species

3.6

transport containers/vessels

designated vessel or containment for convenient transmission or transfer of stock to different destination

4 Location

4.1 Stock routes

4.1.1 The stock routes shall follow existing animal trail routes, hinterland roads and some highways, the railways, waterways and air routes to connect clients with animal markets, the animal production areas, imports and exports.

4.1.2 Stock routes shall be the shortest, convenient to specific destination.

4.1.3 Along stock routes, there shall be check points, quarantine stations and holding grounds.

4.1.4 International Stock Routes (ISRs) shall be extensions from the nearest National Stock Routes (NSRs) to the authorized exit/entry point of the country.

4.1.5 The NSRs and ISRs shall be defined, gazetted, supervised, monitored and reviewed by the competent authority (Commissioner) from time to time.

4.1.6 The names of the stock routes shall be derived from the cities, municipalities, towns, trading centres, border points, rivers-lakes, landing sites and railway stations being connected.

4.1.7 Stock routes shall have sign posts for directions at appropriate points.

4.1.8 Stock routes shall avoid animal health risk areas.

4.1.9 In coming stock shall be identified before leaving the farm to ensure that they arrive onsite identified in accordance with legislation.

4.2 Check points

4.2.1 Permanent Check Points (CPs) shall be situated along major stock routes.

4.2.2 The permanent check points shall have small holding grounds and be located on the land belonging to government and shall have the following requirements:

- a) land shall have well drained area of at least 2 acres of space;
- b) there shall be a double fencing with permanent material of 2.4 m high with 0.7 m under the ground fixed in concrete and metallic rails at interval of 0.15 m up to the top;
- c) appropriate feeding and watering facilities for animals shall be provided;
- d) shades made of durable materials for posts and roofing shall be provided to hold at least 100 livestock units;
- e) the shades shall be constructed in such a way that it is possible to separate different consignments of animals;
- f) handling facilities for each livestock unit shall be provided;
- g) spray equipment;
- h) structures for office and residence for check point staff;
- i) animal check points shall have sign posts placed at least 100 m distance from either side before the check point;
- j) a loading/offloading ramp/ platform;
- k) waste and effluent management facilities;
- l) cleaning and disinfection facilities for vehicles animals and persons as they pass through the check point;

- m) laboratory services;
- n) communication and transport at the check point;
- o) check points shall be manned by competent and adequate personnel;
- p) security facilities;
- q) records and documentation equipment and relevant records and documents shall be kept in user-friendly manner;
- r) information communication management system;
- s) available water source and feed source; and
- t) emergency preparedness plan.

4.3 Animal holding grounds

4.3.1 The animal holding grounds shall be situated along stock routes.

4.3.2 The animal holding ground shall be located on the land belonging to private and government partnership.

4.3.3 The animal holding grounds shall have the following requirements:

- a) land of minimum acreage 50 acres of land capable of providing adequate feed materials, with hay and silage supplementation for ruminants. Monogastric animals shall be provided with full feed provision from external sources;
- b) able to accommodate at least 200 livestock units at any one time for a period of not less than 2 weeks;
- c) there shall be double perimeter fencing separated by 5 m stretch;
- d) paddocks made of durable fencing materials;
- e) fencing posts shall be 2.4 m of which 0.7 m shall be driven into the ground and fixed with concrete. Barbed wire, gauge 14 shall be used to separate in between each strand by 0.15 m feet space (for the double fence);
- f) office, laboratory, storage, refrigeration, toilet and staff residence;
- g) security provisions;
- h) a loading/ offloading ramp/ platform, boma, crush, tick control facilities and disinfecting facility for vehicles, persons and animals;
- i) sheds for cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, birds, and equine (separated) including supplementary feed troughs shall be provided. Livestock units shall be separated to prevent contact between the livestock on-site and other livestock units to avoid spread of diseases from one livestock unit to another unit;
- j) sheds provided shall be well ventilated and protected from adverse weather;
- k) electric power (hydro or generator or solar);
- l) an emergency slaughter slab roofed and an attached post mortem unit;

- m) a cold room in case of holding carcasses for more than 12 hours;
- n) an incinerator or disposal pit for waste management;
- o) manned by competent and adequate personnel;
- p) appropriate records and documentation equipment and relevant and retrievable records and documents shall be kept in user-friendly manner;
- q) information communication management system;
- r) feed and drug storage facility;
- s) information on the costs of holding shall be provided;
- t) available water source and feed source; and
- u) animal identification and traceability system;
- v) clean personal protective equipment shall be worn at all times and personal hygiene shall be observed at all times.

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Bibliography

Uganda Standard, US 778:2019, *Animal stock routes, check points and holding grounds — Requirements*

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